

AIRGRAM

FOR RM USE ONLY

RM/R 1	REP	AF
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR 5
E	P 2	10 5
L 3	FBO	AID
		SIP 1
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR 5
ARMY 3	CIA 20	NAVY 5
OSD 33	USIA 10	NSA 3
		NSC 6

El Salvador/Honduras Boundary
A-49 CONFIDENTIAL RECEIVED

A-49

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NO.

RECEIVED

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO: ARA/CEN, INR/RAR, San Pedro Sula, San Salvador

FROM : American Embassy, Tegucigalpa

DATE: August 12, 1967

SUBJECT: Honduran-Salvadoran Border Dispute: Appointment of Border Commissions

REF :

President Lopez has appointed two commissions to deal with the Honduran-Salvadoran border problem. One, the Commission of Territorial Studies, will be a permanent advisory group concerned with the territorial and technical aspects of the border question.

The other commission, called the Interstate Study Commission, is charged with finding a "juridical solution" to the dispute and drafting a basic document looking toward eventual negotiation of a treaty which would establish the institutions, and procedures adequate for solving the border problem.

Members of the two commissions are listed and described in an enclosure to this airgram.

COMMENT: The GOH takes the view that the latter commission is a successor to those originally proposed by the Villeda-Cordon agreement of 1962, and that it should meet with its counterpart from El Salvador as soon as possible to form a mixed commission which would draw up the basis for a general treaty. It appears to be the hope of the GOH that this course of action will be approved at the August 21 meeting of the Central American Foreign Ministers at Antigua. (Mixed Honduran-Salvadoran commissions held a meeting in September 1963, but working sessions were never conducted because the Villeda government was overthrown in October 1963.)

According to a GOH memorandum provided to us, the Hondurans now envision a preliminary agreement, which would establish a prudent time limit in order that the Interstate Commissions would, through direct negotiation, fix the frontier limits. If the parties do not arrive at an

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

☒ In ☐ Out

FORM 4-62 **DS-323**

Drafted by: ~~RPardon~~ RPardon:gmg 8-12-67

Contents and Classification Approved by:
Jean M. Wilkowski, DCM

Clearances: *MS* GSweany, Pol

CONFIDENTIAL

Tegucigalpa A-49

-2-

agreement by the end of a predetermined period, provision would be made for submitting the problems to the International Court at the Hague. This seems to indicate that the GOH would like to negotiate two agreements with El Salvador: 1) a preliminary agreement covering such technical specifics as surveying responsibilities and expenses, and accomplishing certain determined objectives, such as demarcating the border by a certain date; and 2) a final treaty defining a mutually acceptable border line.

The functions of the Commission of Territorial Studies have not been clearly defined, but its composition indicates that, unlike the Interstate Commissioners (many of whom were selected for their diplomatic and legal backgrounds), most of its members were picked for their historical and geographic knowledge. We understand that the Commission of Territorial Studies is a permanent commission designed to advise the government not merely on the Salvadoran dispute but on any frontier or territorial problems which may arise. The members of the Interstate Commission hold the rank of Ambassador on Special Mission, while the members of the Commission of Territorial Studies have no diplomatic rank.


SOV.Enclosure: att

= As stated

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Encl: 1
Tegucigalpa A-49

The Members of the Interstate Commission for Honduras

1. Jorge Fidel DURON - lawyer; former Foreign Minister under Pres. Lopez; in 1931-32 served on the Honduran-Guatemalan Boundary Commission which met in Washington, D. C.
2. Pedro PINEDA Madrid - lawyer and former Congressional Deputy from the Department of Lempira (on the Salvadoran Border).
3. Roberto PERDOMO Paredes - lawyer; former Foreign Minister in Villeda Morales government; member of 1967 Mixed Commission of Investigation of El Salvadoran/Honduran Border Dispute.
4. Alejandro ALFARO Arriaga - lawyer; former Sub-Foreign Minister in Lozano cabinet; member of 1967 Mixed Commission of Investigation.
5. Salomón JIMENEZ Castro - lawyer, and former Minister of the Interior and Justice in Lozano cabinet.
6. Luis COELLO Ramos - lawyer
7. Sabino MASS - engineer
8. Rafael CERVANTES - engineer
9. Alejandro RIVERA Hernandez - lawyer; member of mixed Salvadoran/Honduran Commission of 1963; former Ambassador to Nicaragua; and legal advisor to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
10. Guillermo INESTROZA - engineer; former member of mixed Salvadoran/Honduran Boundary Commission of 1963; also member of the Commission of Territorial Studies.

The Members of the Commission of Territorial Studies for Honduras

Antonio ALVARADO

1. Miguel ~~ATROCKA~~ ~~ALVARADO~~ - lawyer; member of both the 1963 Mixed Boundary Commission and the 1967 Mixed Commission of Investigation of Honduran/El Salvadoran Border Dispute.
2. Joaquín PALMA Oyuela - lawyer, and former National Party Congressional Deputy.
3. Juan B. VALLADARES - Honduran historian and former President of the National Congress.
4. Darío MONTES - maverick Liberal, former President of the Supreme Court, ex-Minister of Government under Lopez; lived and taught school in El Salvador from 1944-49.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Encl: 1
Tegucigalpa A-49
Page: 2

5. Doctor José REINA Valenzuela - amateur historian and diplomat who has served in Costa Rica and Mexico.
6. Doctor Jesús AGUILAR Paz - Honduras' outstanding geographer; his maps of 1933 and 1954 were the standard semi-official maps of Honduras until the new "official" one was published this year. He might complain to the GOH of an expanded Honduran territorial claim in the Ocotopeque area shown in the new official map, as compared with his own earlier maps.
7. Ernesto ALVARADO Garcia - lawyer
8. Rubén CARIAS Donaire - engineer
9. Guillermo INESTROZA - (see item 10 first list)

CONFIDENTIAL